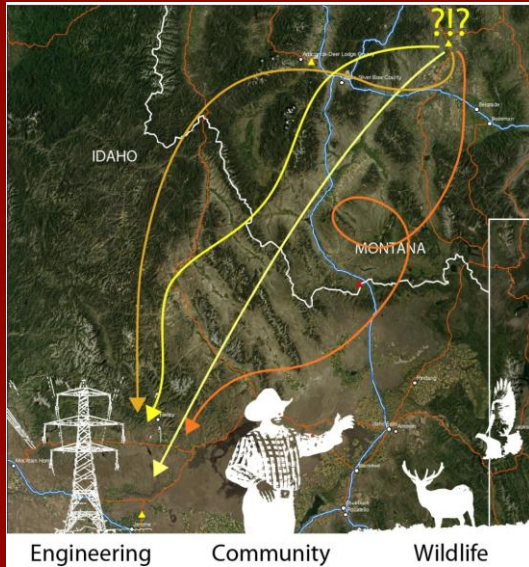


MSTI REVIEW PROJECT



BACKGROUND

- MSTI MFSA application (2008)
- Preliminary Draft EIS (2010)
 - Surprise Preferred Alternative
- Partnership engaged Sept. 2010
- Phase I complete (July 2011)
- MSTI Review Project (Sept 2011- May 2012)



WHY DID WE FORM?

“The MSTI Review Project believes that it is essential to work together to protect rural lifestyles, private property, *and* the natural environment. To that end, we are providing an independent analysis and outreach to affected MSTI counties that will ultimately lead to better planning outcomes from a variety of perspectives that are often seen as mutually exclusive.”

Dan Happel, Madison County (MT)
Commissioner



WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

A unique effort between Montana counties and nongovernmental organizations to conduct an independent and transparent analysis of the proposed Mountain States Transmission Intertie (MSTI).

The Project is working to:

- Better understand the need and context of the line,
- Assess economic impacts and benefits of the line, and
- Balance energy development with local values by identifying corridors while protecting rural communities and the environment.

PROJECT LIAISON GROUP

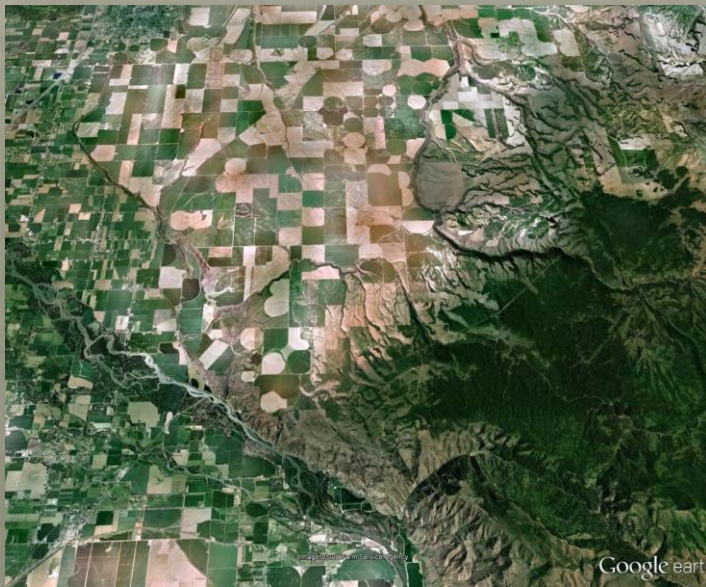
- Provide the MSTI Review Project Core Team with feedback and suggestions on project activities, products, and related issues.
- Assist the MSTI Review Project Core Team with outreach to key audiences and dissemination of project related information and products.

www.MSTIReviewProject.org

MSTIReviewProject@gmail.com

PROJECT COMPONENTS

- Economic & Policy
- Community Mapping
- Wildlife Mapping



RESEARCH & ECONOMIC DELIVERABLES

...

- Written guide to understanding fiscal impact projections for local governments in Montana and Idaho
- Updated Questions & Answers report
- Property value impact review focused on translating and summarizing existing research



ECONOMIC & POLICY RESULTS

- **Green and Clean Tax Credit**
- **Role of Mill Creek**
- **What will the line carry?**
- **Review of Chalmers Property Value Impact Study**
- **Fiscal Impact Analysis**

MAPPING DELIVERABLES

...

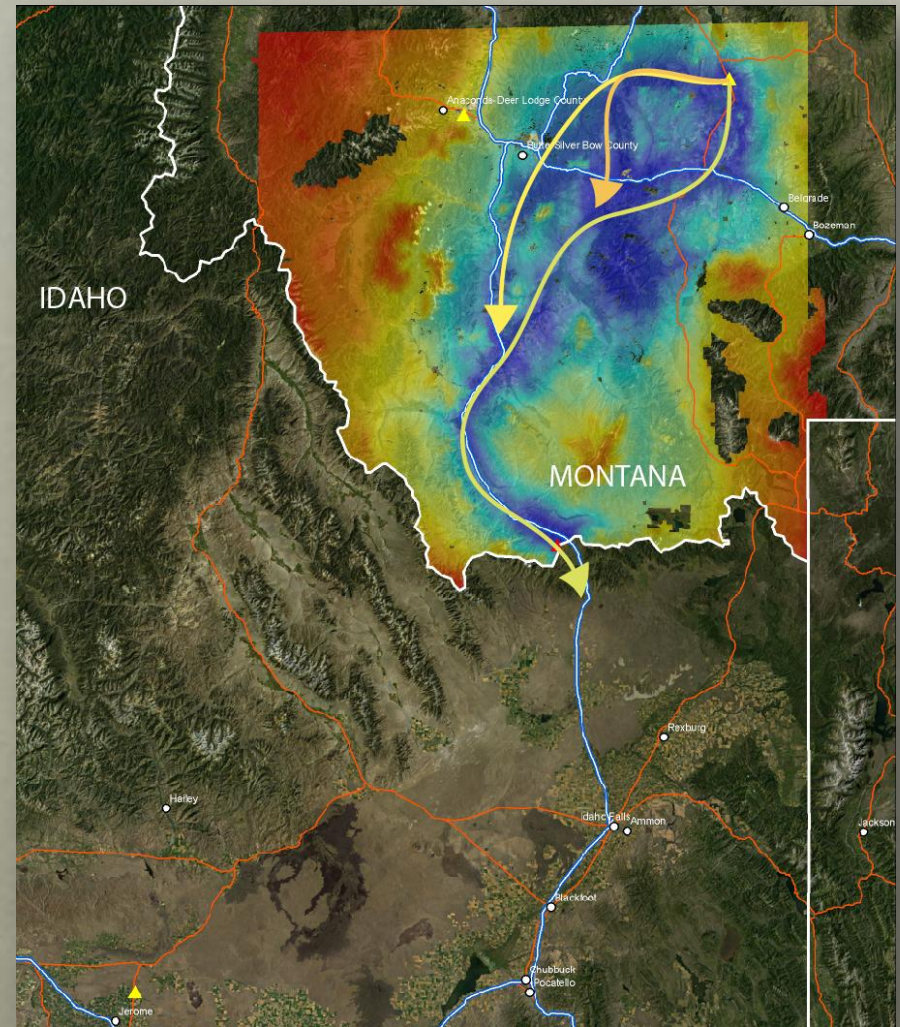
Community:

- Map of community values
- Map of most suitable corridor

Wildlife:

- Map of wildlife values
- Map of most suitable corridor

Constraints: engineering, land
management



COMMUNITY MAPPING RESULTS

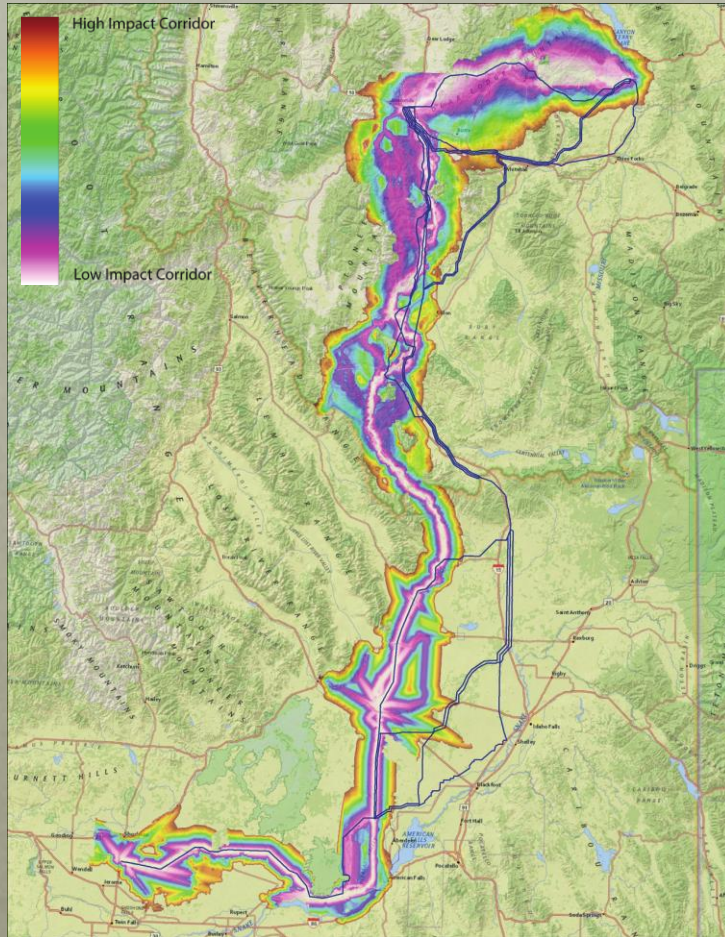
- The results of the community model process reflect local community values and place a heavy emphasis on defending *private property, agricultural land uses, residential land uses*, and collocating **with existing major infrastructure**. Community model prefers the line is on public lands
- The “least impact” or “most suitable” corridor for the community map has a strong affinity for public land, while avoiding “NoGo” areas and attempting to collocate with existing infrastructure where possible.
- Special Management Areas, as identified by the Bureau of Land Management, and engineering constraints, as identified by NorthWestern Energy, populate the “NoGo” areas and play a strong role in keeping the line out of special management areas where transmission lines are prohibited, strongly discouraged, or prohibitively difficult to build (due to high slope or existing physical structures, such as interstates).
- The model tries to balance a tradeoff between *distance* and *impacts to community values*.

WILDLIFE MAPPING RESULTS

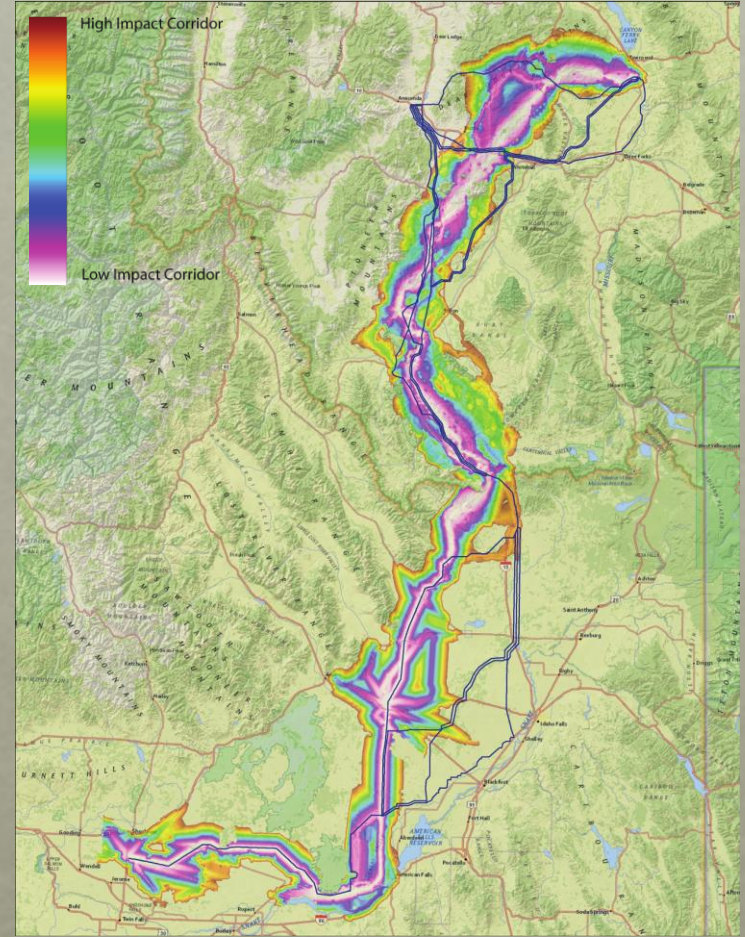
- Minimizing impacts to wildlife requires co-location with existing major transmission lines or highways.
- Both public and private lands provide important habitat that should be considered when siting a transmission line. As such, the resulting wildlife map includes approximately 50% private land, and 50% public land.
- Connecting through Mill Creek via the existing Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) or I-90 corridor appears to accumulate less impact than shorter, more direct routes.
- Given our results, it appears that a process such as the MSTI Review Project would narrow the range of alternatives early on, potentially streamlining the planning process.

COMMUNITY MAPS

www.MSTIReviewProject.org



Community Map Through Mill Creek

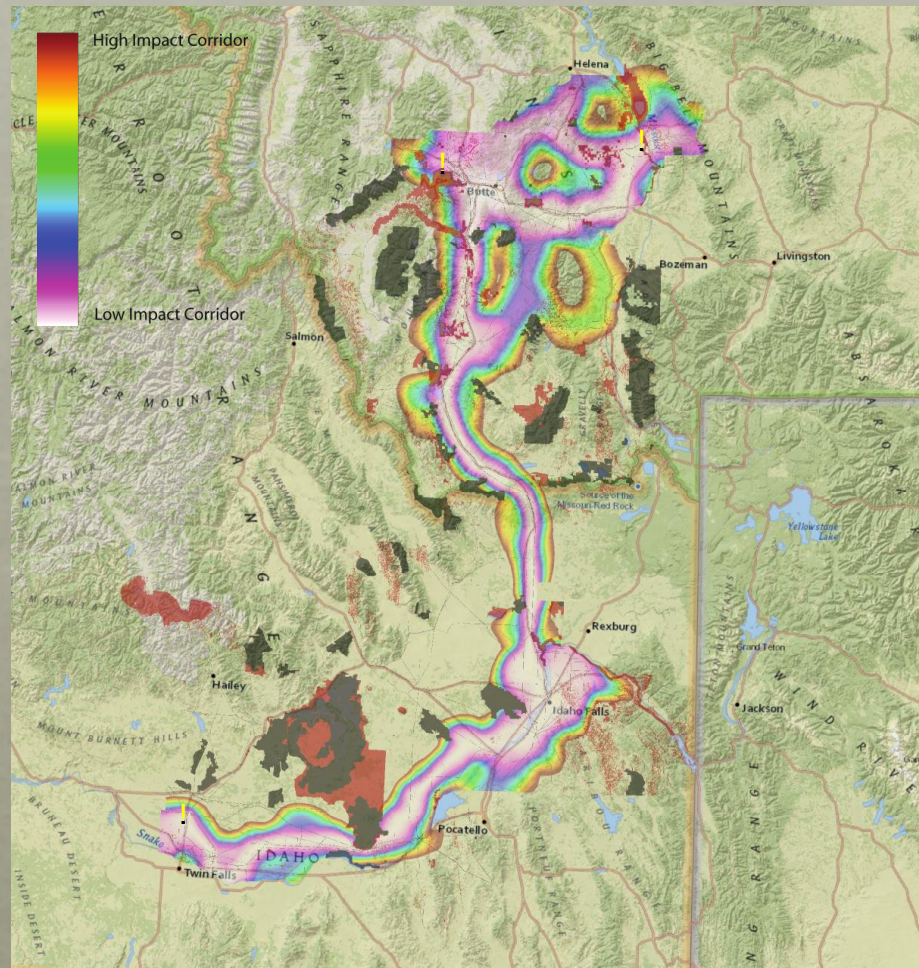


Community Map Without Mill Creek

These maps were produced as part of the MSTI Review Project - an independent analysis of the proposed MSTI line. Community representatives were locally elected county commissioners, representing their constituents. Black lines are the 2010 route alternatives from the unofficial EIS and are provided for reference only.

WILDLIFE MAP

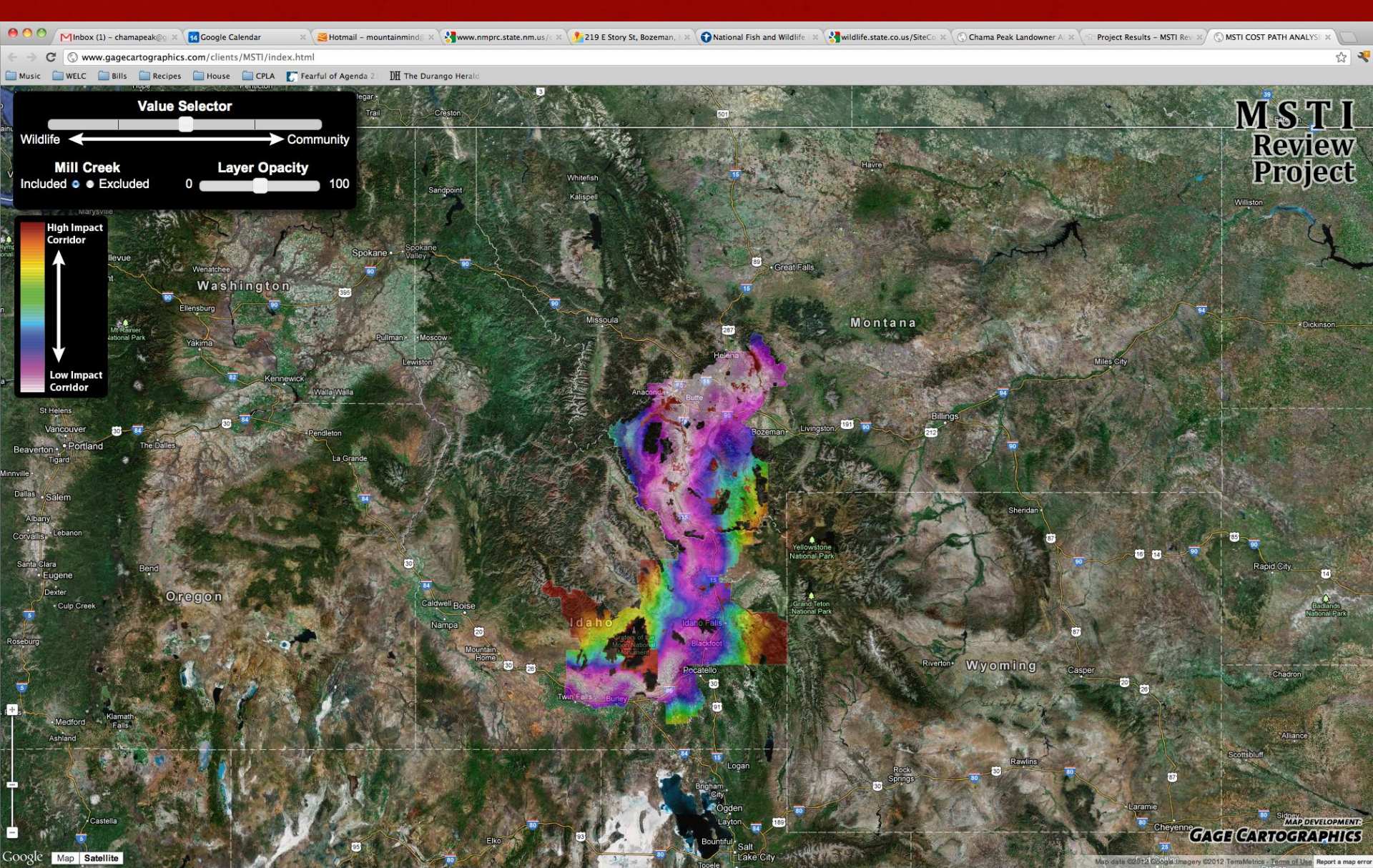
www.MSTIReviewProject.org



These maps were produced as part of the MSTI Review Project - an independent analysis of the proposed MSTI line. This map reflects a prediction of corridors with the least accumulated impacts to wildlife.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Meaningful, transparent engagement is critical to success
- Demonstrated the value of this process, but ideally it would occur much earlier
- Mapping is a valuable tool, but has limitations
- County commissioners and their constituents are one sector of the public – ideally more people would be involved
- Agencies have a complex, difficult job
- We hope our findings are useful and inform EIS



www.MSTIReviewProject.org